

Remarks:

It is believed that the presently amended claims remove the objections under 35 USC §112, in that “the stranded part of a higher density than surrounding in areas” is used consistently in the claims. It is submitted that it is clear from the description and figures what is meant by a stranded part 15, i.e. a narrow portion having higher density. Also Claim 5 has been amended to remove, it is believed, the lack of clarity to the person of ordinary skill in the art.

As regards the obviousness rejections under 35 USC §103, over Wheeler in view of Jarret, it is believed that the new Claim 1 clearly defines the non-obvious structural features of the present invention over Wheeler and Jarret. The main claim now presented for consideration claims the concrete structural feature that the stranded part of higher density is provided with fastener holes. This is a structural feature, shown in Fig. 9, which fulfils the inventive advantages of the invention, i.e. the fasteners are anchored in the high density strand areas of the fiber board, allowing the rest of the board to be areas of low density particle board, thus saving both cost and weight without sacrificing strength at the vulnerable fastener areas. A study of Wheeler shows that it discloses wooden reinforcing stiles¹⁶ at the edge areas to which hinges are screwed (Fig. 1). The present invention avoids all of these reinforcements, in a very simple but ingenious design without the need for reinforcing stiles and rails. Jarrett merely discloses that the outer layers of fine particles will provide a smoother finished surface, with coarser particles providing the central bulk of the board. Uniform density across the particle board is aimed at (see col. 1, lines 47-48 of Jarrett). This has been the case since at least 1965, for particle board for the furniture industry, with those disadvantages of weakness at the fasteners which goes with it. The present invention removes these disadvantages.

It is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance. Should anything still be unclear, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone.

No additional fees are believed to be due at this time. However, if necessary to effect a timely response the Commissioner is authorised to deduct the necessary fees from Deposit account No. 501249.

Respectfully submitted,

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